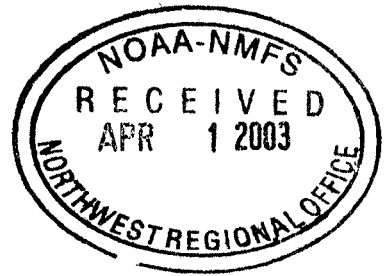


From
Dale Martinis
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425-252-9202
Citizen

To
NOAA
7600 Sandpoint Way
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone 206-526-6613 Fax 206-526-6426



Public Comment

Re: Proposed Rule to classify the Eastern North Pacific Southern Resident Killer Whale Stock as depleted Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

This is a comment on "factors affecting populations" being submitted here because of a system "Error on page" which in my opinion warrants the granting of another 60 day period for public comment.

Factors affecting Populations

Given the recent advance in populations at the same time as record salmon returns 2001 & 2002, it is substantial evidence that salmon are the number one factor for killer whale survival or lets call it PREY ABUNDANCE food source.

The outrageous implication of sound and interference is all based on human emotion. No Scientific Fact. My observation evidence for example is the use of a hydrophone since 1992. The whales vocalize when they feel like it and dont vocalize when they dont feel like it. Just like a human does. When it is noisy I dont talk when it is quiet and I have something to say, I talk. There is no pattern to when I hear vocalization from whales. Sometimes they do and some times they dont. Lots of boats or only my boat. no pattern at all. It does seem there are more vocal days in July August and September, the well fed lazy days. And fewer vocals in April, May and June, the hungry, time to eat, down to business days before the salmon returns

I also have observed point to point navigation of whales with a wandering pattern from side to side of the point to point line. This wandering takes place whether there is only my boat or lots of boats.

I believe the whale, should he be stressed out by noise, just simply tunes it out just like a human does. only this whale has better equipment to do this with.

I have witnessed time and time again, what I see as pleasure from the whales enjoying the presence of boats. I can not explain why a whale comes near to my boat when he has the choice of going the other way except that maybe he is happy to see me.

It is this poor innocent whale whom I believe is much smarter and adaptive than they have been given credit for. They have the ability to hunt and navigate and vocalize whenever they deem it. The boats in my opinion have as much an effect on the whales as fly's do to a horse

It is my responsibility to see there is food on the table for the whale. And to repair the damage to the salmon spawning beds created by man.
so that we all may be able to enjoy the whales
and the whales to enjoy us

Food Source Prey Abundance is the focus where NMFS and Science can help us help the whales.

Thank you

Dale Martinis, "Captain Hollywood"

